

END P. S. BOARD, THOMPSON PLAN

Bill to Abolish City and Upstate Commissions To Be Offered.

NEW BODY OF SEVEN MEMBERS PROPOSED

Legislators Striving to Agree on Measure Conferring Only Regulatory Power.

The Public Service Commission of the metropolitan district will be abolished by the coming Legislature if the tentative plans now being discussed by members of the Thompson committee crystallize into a concrete proposition to which the committee can agree and which the Legislature can be persuaded to accept. There is no division of opinion among the investigators as to the need of drastic changes in the Public Service Commission law, but there is a difference of opinion as to how the changes sought can best be carried out.

So far as the taxpayers of the city are concerned, there will be no doubt as to where they will stand on the plans under discussion, for each and every method suggested contemplates a saving to the city of \$1,000,000 or more a year.

Senator Thompson, chairman of the investigating committee, would abolish both the city and the upstate commissions and substitute in their place a single commission of seven members, the powers of which would be purely regulatory. His plan is somewhat similar to that provided in a bill he introduced in the Legislature last winter, in that it would be a state-wide commission, with a provision that three of its members would come from upstate.

To introduce similar measure. According to his present plans the chairman will again introduce his measure in the coming Legislature, but with many changes designed to meet conditions which the investigation of Public Service affairs has brought to light. One of these will be a provision which will tend to make it impossible for a commissioner to hold stock in a public utility corporation in the name of his wife or a relative.

The commission proposed by Senator Thompson would have power to fix rates, prevent discrimination, regulate stock and bond issues, require adequate service and have all other powers which are lodged in state-wide commissions. It would have nothing to do with the building of new subways for this city, however, for it is the contention of the Senator that this is a purely local function which should be exercised by the city itself.

Senator Thompson's idea is to lodge the supervision of the building of new subways either in the hands of the Mayor or the Board of Estimate, preferably the latter. Should the power be given to the Board of Estimate it could appoint a committee of engineers to handle the subject. Of course, the Mayor could do the same thing. The main thing would be to place the question within the control of the city, which has to foot the bills.

City Has Nothing to Do but Pay. Under the present arrangement the city has nothing to do but pay, the building of subways in this city being in the control of the Public Service Commission, appointed by the Governor.

The salaries of the commissioners would also be cut to \$10,000 a year, according to Senator Thompson's suggestions. While this would effect some savings, the big economy, the Senator believes, would be brought about by turning the building of new subways over to the city itself. The present for the coming year is \$8,000,000. The city commission required to place the subways would be \$1,000,000. The Senator believes that with the city supervising subway construction at least one-third of this would be saved.

Another plan suggested by a member of the Thompson committee is to provide for a state-wide commission of five members with regulatory powers. The general idea of this plan is similar to that of Senator Thompson, except in one particular. Senator Thompson would have the three upstate members appointed by the Governor, while the Senator who proposed this commission would have the three city members appointed by the city itself, with one general chairman. The plan proposed by the committee member, however, makes no such differentiation.

Suggestions have also been made that the power to examine meters be taken from the commission and placed in the Department of Water Supply and Electric Light. It is not improbable that a separate bill of this kind will be introduced at the coming session.

RECOVER \$1,000,000 STOLEN IN MAILBAG

Wilmington Inspectors Look for Important Letters Missing.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 26.—Postoffice inspectors investigating the mail robbery which occurred here yesterday announced today that four important letters were still missing, although they had recovered \$1,000,000 in securities which were in the bag placed in the wagon driven by Albert Earl Johnson, a negro, who was employed to assist in handling the mails during the Christmas rush.

The inspectors believe the letters were sought by some one who knew where they would leave Wilmington and in which particular sack they would be placed. It was learned on good authority that papers relating to foreign shipments of powder made by the du Ponts were included in the mail.

The inspectors do not believe the two negroes now in custody slashed the mail sack to steal money. Both the prisoners deny they did so. Asked to explain how checks totalling \$502,000 happened to be concealed in a stove in the rear yard of the house in which they live and \$700,000 in securities under the wagon seat, they declared they simply could not understand it.

"Despite the negroes' denials, the inspectors say they have all the evidence necessary to convict the men. They declare, however, that the case is by no means cleared up. They are looking for another man who they think may have influenced the prisoners to let him get at the mail sack."

BOSS MAY NOT PRESS GIFTS

Court Protects Employees Who Refuse Presents from Discharge.

Employees who reluctantly accepted Christmas presents from their employers owe gratitude to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. That tribunal has just decided that employees do not have to accept these gifts and that returning them shall not constitute grounds for discharge.

In fact, the court held, an employee does not have to accept an increase in salary. As the court said: "The protection the law gives in such cases should be stated, lest others may suffer from compulsory acceptance of such favors through ignorance of their legal rights."

The case from which grew this bill of rights was brought by Dr. Morris Frachman, who was under contract to Dr. Charles L. Fox. Both were dentists. Last year Dr. Fox gave Dr. Frachman a pair of gold cuff buttons. Dr. Fox considered the return an insult and discharged Dr. Frachman, who sued for salary for the unexpired term of his contract. The lower court dismissed his complaint, but the Appellate Term reversed the decision and ordered a new trial.

NATIONAL FENCES CALLED WAR GERMS

Cowles Prescribes Free and Unlimited Communication as World Sedative.

If somebody will get the boys out of the trenches, James L. Cowles, of 55 East Fifty-sixth Street, will keep them out. Mr. Cowles is president of the World Postal League, which wants a world's postal union that shall be universal, cheap and uninterrupted by international boundaries.

"Cooperation," Mr. Cowles says, "is the panacea for every international evil. It was competition that put those boys in the trenches. Just give the world a chance to be neighbors and good natured and the old world, weary of strife, will jump at the chance. The solution is easy: Uninterrupted international communication and transportation."

Germany has the right idea in her efforts permanently to affiliate Austria with herself. She is simply erasing the international line that interrupts communication and transportation. No tariff, uninterrupted freight, express and passenger service, and equal rates for interstate as for intrastate mail, telephone, telegraph, parcel post and money order service will find blind the Teuton nations.

The United States, according to Mr. Cowles, is a cooperative commonwealth and should lead in the cooperative movement. Complete freedom for interchange of ideas and the opportunity to get acquainted with the one influence that will prevent another war, says Mr. Cowles.

"TIMES" BUYS PLOT TO ENLARGE PLANT

Obtains 100-Foot Frontage in 43d St. Adjoining Annex.

Reports of a large real estate deal involving property in the vicinity of Times Square were confirmed last night, when it was announced that 231 to 239, inclusive, in West Forty-third Street, had been purchased for "The New York Times."

The property will be utilized by the "Times" to further extend its printing establishment, now housed in the twelve-story building known as the "Times" Annex. Five five-story buildings now occupy the plot, which measures 100 feet frontage on Forty-third Street and slightly more than 100 feet in depth.

It is less than three years ago since "The New York Times" moved from the "Times" Building to the "Times" Annex. The building was especially designed for its needs and intended to take care of its growth for many years. Every part of the "Times" Annex Building is now being used, and it has become necessary to consider the acquisition of still further space.

The property just acquired will be improved with a structure similar in general character to the "Times" Annex Building. With its new purchase "The New York Times" will have a total frontage on the north side of West Forty-third Street of 243 feet.

OPPOSITION AIDS BENEFIT

German-American Show Thrives on Police Ban.

Hackenschmidt, N. J., Dec. 26.—The German-American Red Cross benefit, thrived on police opposition here today and collected more than \$500, largely because of an eleven-hour decision of the prosecutor that a paid admission entertainment could not be held on Sunday.

Tickets for the benefit had been sold here for weeks, and it was reported at noon yesterday that 800 had been purchased. A short time after noon Prosecutor Thomas J. Harkin notified the officers of the German-American Alliance that no charge could be made for the entertainment under the state Sunday closing law. It was too late to postpone the entertainment, so the tickets were collected some distance outside the Lyric Theatre. Two collections were taken during the performance.

SCIENCE DEATH INQUIRY ON

Coroner Subpoenaes the Relatives of A. H. Schubert.

Efforts to fix responsibility for the death of Alexander H. Schubert, who died on Christmas morning while under the care of Christian Scientists, resulted in the subpoenaing as witnesses of practically all of the dead man's relatives by Coroner Ernest C. Wagner yesterday. The subpoenas were issued on an inquest on Thursday evening.

The Schubert home, 473 First Street, Brooklyn, was closed to inquirers yesterday, and Mrs. Schubert, widow of the broker, was quoted as saying that the affair was "nobody's business."

The coroner learned that it was Mrs. Fletcher, mother-in-law of Schubert, who telephoned Dr. Robert H. Carr before the death of the patient. The coroner was put to the witness stand by having to do with the alleged refusal to permit Dr. Carr to treat the dying man.

Stenographers Meet To-morrow. The fortieth annual convention of the New York State Stenographers Association will be held at the Hotel Astor to-morrow and Wednesday. Two subjects for debate are the proposed merger of all the shorthand associations in the state and a proposed affiliation with the National Association of Stenographers. There will be a dinner at the Astor after the final session Wednesday.

FOX STEPS OLD AS BULL RUN

Ancient Friends in New Dress to Dean of Dancing Masters.

COLONEL, 75, GLIDES ON TRAIL OF NOVELTY

Dainty Maurice Unlimbers Modern Figures for Out-of-Town Teachers.

"Bear this in mind, friends: For every one step we take forward we go back two."

This is not a peevish minister preaching the decadence of the day to a humble congregation—indeed not—it is that graceful ornament of the grill room, Maurice, originator of the tango and well known husband of Florence Walton. He was explaining the intricacies of a new fox-trot ("a little thing of my own," as he says) to the American National Association of Masters of Dancing, twenty-five members of which gathered at the Hotel McAlpin yesterday afternoon to acquire the latest Broadway glides for the home consumption of Buffalo, Pittsburgh and points West.

For more than an hour Maurice waited, tanned and fox-trotted, while the dignified delegates—many of them "professors" in their home towns—looked around after him. Maurice expects to show them how to adapt all the old tango steps to fox-trot time.

The A. N. A., as the members refer to their organization, is a sort of national league which decides the current dancing rules. Most famous of its members is Colonel Louis Kretlow, of Chicago, who is seventy-five years old and has been a teacher for fifty-eight years. As a young man the colonel was on hand yesterday.

Clutching a notebook tightly in one hand, in which he constantly made notes of the various steps, Colonel Kretlow ambled about the glassy floor with all the energy of a patent medicine indorser.

Five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren are a few of the relatives that the colonel boasts and he lives his long life to regular living. He admitted taking a glass of beer after work, however, and also smoking an occasional cigar.

"There's nothing new in these dances for me," said the colonel, "I have been dancing since I was a boy. I have danced to the modern movements. I danced them all years ago. Just different combinations from the same steps, that's all we have now."

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Members are arriving hourly from all over the country, and by this morning sixty-five are expected to be on hand. Among those present yesterday were Thomas McDougall, of Pittsburgh, president of the association; George F. Walters, of Waltham, Mass.; secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Loring, of Montreal, Canada; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Passmore, of Newark, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Foreman, of Pittsburgh; Mr. Harry Taylor Hill, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Albert V. Tuttle, of Baltimore; P. E. Jacques, of Pittsburgh; R. O. Blackburn, of Pittsburgh; Arthur J. Funk, of Buffalo; Mrs. A. J. Whitmore, of Worcester, Mass.; Miss Louise Morgan, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Conroy, of Hartford, Conn.; Joseph P. Neville, of Hartford, Conn.; R. Laing, of Ottawa, Canada; and H. P. Lane, of Springfield, Mass.

HONEST "ADS" WINNING

Postoffice Department Reports Decrease in Frauds.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Full credit for the decrease in fraudulent advertising which has been caused in the last few years by the vigorous efforts of certain newspapers, including The Tribune, many magazines and intelligent advertising men, is claimed for the Wilson administration in the report of the Solicitor of the Postoffice Department, made public to-night. The report points out the growth of the clean "ad" movement and comments on the reasons which are making it effective, and says:

"Another very striking effect of the policy of this administration with respect to fraudulent operations through the mails is the leading of organizations of advertising men and newspaper proprietors throughout the country have inaugurated and are now actively carrying out plans to 'clean up' the false and fraudulent advertising. It is strongly urged by these behind this movement that the public will have more faith in advertising matter generally and that it will patronize the honest and that the standing of the newspapers themselves will soon be raised by the character of the advertisements they carry."

RABBI PRAISES TRIBUNE

Samuel Greenfield Commends Policy of Truth in Advertising.

Rabbi Samuel Greenfield, of Temple Isaiah, 209 West Ninety-fifth Street, addressing the Young Folks' League of the temple last evening, commended The Tribune for its policy of truth in advertising. He said, in part:

"Of all the papers in the city The Tribune is paying the closest attention to keeping from its columns such advertisements as are unhealthy. Notices of patent medicines and such other shams products have no place in The Tribune. There can be nothing too good said of such a policy."

War Victims Seek Friends Here.

At a meeting to be held to-night under the auspices of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society in the auditorium of the Bank of the United States, 77 Delancey Street, a list of Jewish war sufferers who are anxious to communicate with relatives and friends in this country will be read. They are persons who have been driven from their homes in the war zone and who have lost the addresses of their friends here.

Reserve Tables Now for New Year's Eve.

CAFE BOULEVARD Broadway & 41st St. Bryant-4220.

DANCING-CABARET

Special Engagement A la Carte Specialties THE BRAZILIAN NUT DINNER ONE DOLLAR

and SENOR ARBOZ Lunch Fifty Cents SUNDAY MIDDAY DINNER 50c

ROOMS FOR PRIVATE AND CLUB DINNERS

14th Street, near Fourth Avenue.

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DANCER AT ST. MARK'S FESTIVAL.



Miss Evelyn Crooks, who will take part in entertainment at Hotel Astor Thursday.

Plays and Players of the Film World

If Edwin Thanhouser, head of the film company of that name, will borrow a copy of Leonard Merrick's and short stories he will find the source from which the one-act photo play, "Hannah's Henpecked Husband," was let us call it—"adapted."

Theda Bara is in receipt of a letter in which a person of the male persuasion, admitting to residence in Cincinnati, writes: "I think you are one of the most charming, artistic, good-looking actresses on the illegitimate stage."

Kitty Gordon, statuesque, etc., is being filmed in a photo play version of H. C. Phillips' novel, "As in a Looking Glass," which is a most appropriate play for such a good looking lass.

Dustin Farnum, who has been ill in the California film fields, is reported to be now in the hospital at the Hotel Hamilton, on Blackwell's Island, where he died yesterday morning. It is set forth that quick consumption caused his death. But anybody who had followed "Yaller's" checkered career could have added that lack of nourishment was the real trouble.

Unless the memories of old residents of Brooklyn play them false, it was thirty-three years ago when a policeman sauntered up to a hungry but cheerful child who sat on a box at Driggs Avenue and Lorimer Street, in Williamsburg, swinging his short legs. The boy didn't know how he had found his way to the spot, and nobody told the trouble to find out. Since indifferent parents had supplied him with no name, street loungers later supplied the substitute "Yaller" because of his striking resemblance to the Yellow Kid.

The name clung to the boy as persistently as did his other misfortunes. "Yaller" slept, ate and lived nobody knew where, until he landed to a transient life at a pie-eating contest at the old Unique Theatre, Brooklyn, by consuming eleven mince pies.

On the morning of Christmas Eve "Yaller" awoke on a hard bench in a lodging house at Bedford and South First Streets. This was nothing unusual to him, but what did surprise him was that he found it impossible to rise when the attendants threw open the doors and ordered the sleepers out at 7 o'clock.

"Yaller" suspected he was sick. A physician verified his suspicions and sent him to Blackwell's Island. There, amid greater comforts than he ever had known in life, he died.

James Short, one of the men who had known and been interested in "Yaller," notified business men who had been accustomed to accepting him with the rising sun each day, and a purse was made up to buy the luxuries that the outcast never dreamed would surround him on his last journey.

SEAMEN'S ACT A DECALOGUE

Union President Calls Law's Repeal as Likely as Commandments.

"There is no more chance of repealing the Seamen's Act than there is of repealing the Ten Commandments," said Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union, last evening at the Washington Irving Hotel. "It has taken the American sailor out of slavery, it has given him a living wage and, above all, it has filled that need for 18,000 sailors demanded by the navy."

Following the address petitions were signed by the audience opposing any move to curtail free speech, denial of the use of public buildings to labor organizations and the elimination of Sunday night for meetings.

FATE'S DEATH DEAL FILLS LIFE'S WANTS

Real Funeral To Be First Luxury to Enter Bare Life of "Yaller," Starved Outcast.

Fate has played her last grim prank on "Yaller," nameless, homeless and an outcast. Through the hand of death she has granted him the measure of recognition and respect that life persistently withheld.

This morning the body of the man who never had a home nor an intimate friend is lying in state in Frank Montano's undertaking room, North First Street and Driggs Avenue, Williamsburg, awaiting a burial that will cost more than "Yaller" ever saw, much less possessed, in life. Friends for whom he yearned during his days of loneliness have come forward and contributed cash to defray the expenses of a real funeral for him.

It is another freak of "Yaller's" existence that he ate his way to fame in a pie-eating contest and died for want of the little nourishment necessary to hold his tired body and soul together. On the records of the Metropolitan Hospital, on Blackwell's Island, where he died yesterday morning, it is set forth that quick consumption caused his death. But anybody who had followed "Yaller's" checkered career could have added that lack of nourishment was the real trouble.

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PRINCESS VERY GOOD EDDIE

PLAYHOUSE 41st St. E. of Broadway, E. 815. 12 Boxes, \$15.00. 10 Boxes, \$10.00. 8 Boxes, \$7.50. 6 Boxes, \$5.00. 4 Boxes, \$2.50. 2 Boxes, \$1.00. 1 Box, 50c.

GRACE IN MAJOR

GEORGE Shaw's BARBARA THE NEW YORK IDEA FOUR MATINEES THIS WEEK: WEED & SAT. 4TH. MAJOR BARBARA THE LIARS

MANHATTAN TO-NIGHT

ABERG MASKED MARVEL

PETTY COAL CZARS ROB CITY'S POOR

Thousand Cellar Dealers Pay \$1 a Day to Backers in Syndicate.

TENEMENT DWELLERS CHEATED BY WEIGHT

Conspiracy Charges Will Be Outcome of Selling That Brings \$20 a Ton Profit.

A well organized syndicate, that has more than a thousand coal cellar dealers in its service working on a system that charges the poor \$20 or \$25 a ton for coal which costs about \$4.50 a ton and is sold by honest dealers for about \$7 retail, has been uncovered by Commissioner Joseph Hartigan of the Department of Weights and Measures. There are twelve directors for this syndicate. In addition to their profits as wholesalers, they exact a tribute of \$1 a day from each of the dealers in their system.

"The twelve work on the padrone plan," Mr. Hartigan said yesterday. "Most of their dealers are Italians, Greeks and Armenians, whom they grubstake, renting a cellar for them, stocking it and supplying it with coal. They control these dealers absolutely."

"The prey of the syndicate are the poorest classes in the city, folk who live in cold-water tenement houses and who of necessity have to buy their coal supplies in 10-cent pauliffs. It is by short-weighting in these infinite numbers of small sales that go to make up a ton that in the long run the price obtained from the poor runs up to \$20 or \$25 in the aggregate for a ton."

Evidence of Conspiracy. "We have evidence tending to show that the members of the syndicate school their subversive dealers in ways to conduct this cheating, so that they will be able to pay them their \$1 a day tribute money. If we can get this evidence in proper form a conspiracy case will be brought against the District Attorney, and we shall make an effort to break up this particular method of thievery."

Mr. Hartigan's men stumbled across the trail of this new crook syndicate during the recent campaign in Brooklyn and the present crusade in Manhattan and The Bronx against dishonest cellar coal merchants. This already has resulted in many arrests and the confiscation and condemnation of hundreds of illegal sales.

Inspectors under Chief Albert Lutz assigned to hunt down short weight and measure crooks, visited in three days 380 coal cellars, inspecting 369 weighing and measuring instruments, of which eighty-six were found to be crooked. There were thirty-two arrests on penalty charges and a number of civil actions started.

But the most interesting point in these visits was the knowledge of the syndicate was gradually revealed. The inspectors were repeatedly warned by the dealers that they were not bosses, but received orders for everything they did from the big bosses in the syndicate. The names of the leaders were wherever possible by the inspectors, and when they came to compare notes they found the names of twelve certain men constantly appearing.

On official and unofficial reports furnished me I am convinced of the existence of a syndicate headed by these twelve men, three of whom we know positively and one of whom I shall do my utmost to bring them to book. It is not only an added imposition on the poorest of our people, but its operations are putting a premium on dishonesty.

"The cellar man is forced to pay this syndicate tax because the syndicate starts him in business, giving him an option of final purchase at a price which he seldom finds himself ever able to pay. He is bound by written contracts, and goes on pinching here

and there on weight and measure to clear that daily dollar, and at the same time hang on to a profit for himself."

"The method of selling coal in 10-cent pauliffs is in direct violation of the law. The law demands sale by standard measure and scale weights. It cannot prescribe the price, but, with all dealers forced to adhere to honesty in weights and measures, the price would regulate itself through honest competition."

"The poor are too busy scraping a living or lack sufficient knowledge of their rights to notify us of dishonest dealings. Besides, the cost of even a one-cent postal card cannot be spared much larger force than our present one to round up all the crooked dealers who prey upon the poor, and I particularly refer to the coal cellar men who are in the clutches of the syndicate."

There are, the Commissioner said, altogether about 15,000 cellar coal dealers in the city. He is going to propose to the Board of Aldermen an ordinance imposing a license fee of \$1 a year on all such dealers. He would have the law provide that the revocation of the license of a dishonest dealer would prohibit him from doing business in this city.

CHASE OVER ROOFS AFTER JELLY ROLL

Kidnapper of Dainty Captured After Battle with Woman and Flight.

"The Kidnapped Jelly Roll; or, Over the Roofs to the Jail," is the title of an unscheduled motion picture thriller that was staged, not upon the screen, but on Williamsburg housetops yesterday afternoon, to the huge delight of all but the villain. So realistic was the villain's portrayal of a burglar that he is being held in the Bedford Avenue police station to answer to a charge of being one in everyday life.

The scene opened when Mrs. Sarah Miller returned to her flat, at 774 Moore Street, to find the door barricaded against her. A well directed kick toppled the barricade over, and the woman entered in time to see the villain, with handkerchief tied across his face, clambering out upon the fire escape.

Mrs. Miller sprang after him and grasped a vanishing leg and pulled it over back into the flat. The owner of the leg drew a slungshot and applied it to the arm of his captor with such stinging effect that Mrs. Miller released her hold and screamed for help. The next glimpse of the villain showed him racing over the roofs, a jelly roll bulging from his flying coat. The chase was on the words of the film man revealed a gathering of excited men and women, all trying to crowd through a window upon a fire escape at the same time. A moment later they were in hot pursuit of the fleeing villain.

Over broken skylights, around chimneys and over yawning courtyards raced pursuer and pursued. Finally the kidnapper of the jelly roll gained the roof of the Bedford Avenue Hotel, and the triumphant prisoner gave the name of Herman Sayditz. In his pocket were found the accusing jelly roll and several articles of Mrs. Miller identified as her property.

Magistrate Dodd held him without bail for the grand jury on charges of burglary and carrying concealed weapons.

ILL AT CHRISTMAS: ENDS LIFE

Woman's Despondency Grew as Holidays Nearer—Another Found Dying.

Woman's Despondency Grew as Holidays Nearer—Another Found Dying. Another life with gas yesterday. Another life under arrest in the German Hospital, suffering from gas poisoning.

Mrs. Mamie Miller, thirty-eight years old, had been very bright recently and became more melancholy than usual at Christmas time. She had been employed as housekeeper by William Kruss, at Woodward and Flushing avenues, and was found dead in her bedroom by Kruss. A gas tube was in her mouth.

Mrs. Pauline Staeth, fifty-five years old, was found in the home of her daughter, 74 Fordham Road, Ridgewood, sitting in the dining room with a gas tube in her mouth and her head resting on the table. She was taken to the German Hospital and put under arrest. She may recover. She had been ill lately.

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